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The Organisers

- ❖ HDF-cDAR, Bhubaneswar
- ❖ Center for Environment and Development (CED), Thiruvananthapuram
- ❖ Central University of Odisha, Koraput
- ❖ Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhubaneswar
- ❖ Orissa Environmental Society (OES), Bhubaneswar
- ❖ Council of Analytical Tribal Studies (COATS), Koraput
- ❖ Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) University, Bhubaneswar



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ODISHA ENVIRONMENT CONGRESS 2022

Theme ENVIRONMENT & TRIBES

Date & Venue
 21st - 23rd December 2022 | Central University of Odisha Koraput



In Partnership and Collaboration with Central University of Odisha, Koraput

Organised by

Centre for Environment and Development

HDF-cDAR
 Centre for Development Action & Research

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar



BACKGROUND

Odisha Environment Congress (OEC) will hold its 13th edition, from 21st to 23rd December 2022, at Central University of Odisha, Koraput. Started in 2010 as an annual scientific and civil society event on environment, OEC has been providing a unique opportunity to academicians, researchers, scientists, planners, policy makers, students, practitioners, community members and civil society organizations of the State and outside for learning, interaction and dissemination of knowledge on different themes around environment. It also provides scope for publication of theme-specific and research-based articles in the proceedings which is released during the main event, besides providing an opportunity for the professionals to present their articles in various technical sessions. The themes of last 12 years were "Environment & Water Resources" in 2010, "Environment & Forest" in 2011, "Environment & Energy" in 2012, "Environment & Agriculture" in 2013, "Environment & Climate Change" in 2014, "Environment: Health and Nutrition" in 2015, "Environment: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)" in 2016, "Environment & Sustainable River Basin Management" in 2017 and "Environment and Gandhi" in 2018, "Environment and Mining" in 2019, "Environment and Biodiversity" in 2020, "Environment and Pandemic" in 2021. The theme for 2022 is, "Environment and Tribes".

Objectives of OEC :

- ❖ To provide a platform for interaction among the researchers, policy makers, leading experts, social activists in the field of Environment, so that they come up with innovative and creative ideas to address key environmental challenges.
- ❖ To enhance the networking among various research organizations, academic institutions, government and nongovernment organizations working in the field of Environment.
- ❖ To generate specific knowledge base on Environment and its relationship with human beings among stakeholders.
- ❖ To provide a community - scientific group interface for better understanding of environmental issues and how to overcome them.



Theme of 13th OEC: Environment & Tribes

The life, culture and knowledge of the tribes or indigenous people are often embedded in a cosmology that consider nature as sacred and acknowledges humanity as a part of it. Their life and living encompass practical ways to ensure the balance of the environment in which they live, so it may continue to provide services such as water, fertile soil, food, shelter and medicines. The spiritual connections between tribes and the nature have been the cornerstones in safeguarding the ecology of the planet and preservation and conservation of environment.

But today their lives, survival, development chances, knowledge, health conditions etc are being threatened by environmental degradation, large scale industrial activities, toxic waste, conflicts and forced migration, as well as by land-use and land-cover changes. Over centuries the relationship between indigenous peoples and their environment has been eroded because of dispossession or forced removal from their traditional lands and sacred sites. Developmental projects, mining, forestry activities, agricultural programmes continue to displace the tribes from their lands. Environmental damage has been substantial, flora and fauna have been extinct or endangered, unique ecosystems have been destroyed and rivers and other water bodies have been severely polluted. Along with these challenges of climate change phenomena is further going to exacerbate which heavily impact on the balance between tribes and environment.

The OEC is going to discuss, deliberate and come up with workable solutions to meet the above challenges during its 13th Annual Session on the theme, "Environment and Tribes". The organising committee of 13th OEC invites research based papers / articles from researchers, academicians, activists, practitioners, scientists etc on the following sub-themes, which will be published in the form of a Conference Proceedings and will be released during the inauguration of the annual event on 21st December.

The Sub-Themes

- ◆ Environment and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge
- ◆ Environment and Tribal Art, Culture & Literature
- ◆ Environment and Biodiversity Conservation in Tribal Areas
- ◆ Environment and Sustainable Forest and Water Management
- ◆ Environment and Mining in Tribal Areas
- ◆ Environment and Tribal Food Security and Livelihood
- ◆ Environment, Climate Change and Tribes
- ◆ Best Practices in Environment Conservation by the Tribals

Koraput-The Venue of the Conference

Koraput region (undivided Koraput District) of southern Odisha is one of the tribal dominated regions of India situated in the northern part of Eastern Ghats. Due to its unique topography and ecological diversity, this region is famous for its rich agrobiodiversity and has been recognised by FAO as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Site (GIAHS). This region is predominantly inhabited by most of the primitive tribes viz. Paroja, Bhumia, Gadaba, Bhatra, Durua and including PVTGs like Banda, Didayi, Lanjia Saura and Dongria Kandha etc. constituting >50% of the total population. With vast untapped plant genetic resources, Koraput is recognised as the secondary centre of origin of Asian cultivated rice. During the month of December Koraput has a cool but pleasant weather.

Key Activities of OEC 2022

Publication of Proceedings: >>

Proceedings of Odisha Environment Congress 2022 will be published and released by the Chief Guest on the 1st day during the inauguration of the main event of OEC on 21st December 2022. The proceeding will contain Keynote address, invited papers from experts and papers from researchers, practitioners, activists and academicians etc. The selected articles by the contributors will be presented during the OEC.



Dr. Ajay Kumar Parida Young Scientists Award: >>

Papers from young researchers (age 35 and below) will be considered for inclusion in the Young Scientist Award session. In case of multiple authorships, the first author will be considered for the award and he/she shall present the paper. Interested author (s) shall also have to give an undertaking that the work has not been presented elsewhere or has not been submitted for publication/award. The Young Scientist Award will consist of a cash prize, memento and certificate of excellence. The Young Scientist Award is named after Padma Shri Dr. Ajay Kumar Parida Former Director, ILS, who was adviser of Odisha Environment Congress (OEC).

S. B. Mishra Green Corporate Award: >>

Nominations from Corporate Bodies or Foundations of Corporate Bodies, having visible contribution in the area of Environmental Protection and Management will be sought for consideration for the S B Mishra Green Corporate Award for the year 2022. Late Sri Sudhanshu Mishra (IAS) Former Chief Secretary of Odisha was the Advisor of OEC since its inception. The winner will be provided with certificate, memento and crown as a token of recognition.

Prof Radhamohan Green Ambassador Award: >>

Nominations from credible NGOs/Civil society members, academicians, experts, activists, etc. with a remarkable contribution in the area of Environmental Protection and Management will be sought for consideration for the Green Ambassador Award for the year 2022. The Green Ambassador Award is named after late Padma Shri Prof. Radhamohan who was a pioneer of the environmental movement and was the advisor of OEC since its inception.

Children's Environment Congress >>

OEC organizes various activities/ competitions on the theme related to environment among school and college students across the State under Children's Environment Congress with the aim of creating more awareness in the minds of children and the youth. Various activities like painting, debate, essay writing, story writing, e-poster designing, etc. are organized on the theme to engage young minds. This year, the Children's Environment Congress will be held on 22nd December 2022 at Council of Analytical Tribal Studies (COATS), Koraput.

